



The Mission Inn Poem

HISTORY

Did you know the Mission Inn, Frank Miller, and Riverside were featured in a poem? In 1907, famed architect Arthur Benton published a “book-length poem about the Inn, the missions, and Riverside”¹. Illustrations of the hotel were drawn throughout the pages of the poem by artist, William Sharp.²

Arthur Benton wrote several lines of poetry about Frank Miller and the Inn. A portion of Arthur Benton’s poetry is provided below, along with the historical context of each line.

Line of Poetry	Historical Context
“So spread the Glenwood’s name	The original name of the Mission Inn was the Glenwood Hotel.
Came tens, then scores, then hundreds came:	References the number of visitors that came to the inn over time.
Then he who as a lad has filled	Referencing a young Frank Miller’s purchase and expansion of the Inn and the materials used to build the inn.

¹ Johnson, J. and Lech, S. *Images of America: Riverside’s Mission Inn*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2006, p.37.

² Johnson, J. and Lech, S. 2006, p.37.



<p>The moulds with clay with which to build</p>	
<p>His fathers house, now dreamed that he</p>	<p>Frank Miller purchased the inn from his father Christopher Columbus Miller in 1880.</p>
<p>The Builder of an Inn would be Like ancient mission hostelry</p>	<p>It could be interpreted as Frank Miller’s understanding and passion behind being the Master of the Inn (his eventual nickname).</p>
<p>With every modern courtesy Of builder’s art for comfort’s sake</p>	<p>Frank Miller made great efforts to ensure his guests were comfortable and added several “modern” elements of comfort.</p>
<p>Wherein the old time art should take Thoughts backward to the restful time Of California’s maiden prime.”</p>	<p>Referencing the art of the inn and its references to California’s beauty and history.</p>

Poetry Lines*³

³ Johnson, J. and Lech, S. 2006, p.37.



ACTIVITY

We are going to create a poem about the Inn. It will be created as a Haiku format.

Haiku:

“A haiku is an unrhymed Japanese poetic form that consists of 17 syllables arranged in three lines containing five, seven, and five syllables, respectively. A haiku expresses much and suggests more in the fewest possible words.”⁴

Example Haiku:

Line 1 (5 syllables): The Mission Inn Rocks

Line 2 (7 syllables): Captivating History

Line 3 (5 syllables): Let Us Take A Tour

Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper

Directions:

1. Review how to make a Haiku (5-7-5).
2. Start getting creative!
3. Share your poem with us!

⁴ Merriam Webster. *Haiku*. Website: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/haiku>



Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more history about the Mission Inn poem or haikus, check out the resources below.

Johnson, Jarrell and Lech, Steve. *Images of America: Riverside's Mission Inn*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

Merriam Webster. *Haiku*. Website: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/haiku>